



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: May 28, 2020

Agenda Item: O'Dell Creek Property Acquisition (R3)

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

The proposed acquisition is immediately east of and shares a property boundary with the existing Ennis FAS. This would increase the size of the FAS by approximately 100 acres and allow public access to the O'Dell Spring Creek and Bear Creek- both are tributaries to the Madison River. The property at the proposed site is privately owned by the Two Creeks Estate, LLC, and listed with a local realtor. Access would be limited to walk-in use only and managed to enhance opportunity while protecting this important fishery with the Madison River drainage. Multiple conservation partners have expressed interest in helping with the acquisition of the site, including the option of providing a bridge loan for this acquisition while FWP enlists legislative support and local/national partnerships. The legal description is: S-03, T-06S, R-01W. Lat/Long: 43.343033/-111.719470.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

If endorsed by the commission, the department will begin its due diligence process that will include conducting an environmental assessment and public scoping.

Alternatives & Analysis:

The commission could choose to endorse this proposal, and the department would pursue acquiring access and provide a FAS for public use. Conversely, the commission could choose to not endorse this proposal, and the department would not pursue an FAS at this location.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

The agency recommends pursuing this acquisition opportunity. Securing this property and preserving public access to a spring creek of this caliber is unprecedented in Montana. As public access is continually challenged, securing this property is squarely in the benefit of the public trust.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission authorize the department to pursue acquiring a Fishing Access Site on the Madison River on the property currently owned by the Two Creeks Estate, LLC.